CLAIMS:

1. A method for backing up and restoring files comprising the steps of:

installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;

receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and

receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of files to be backed up; and

selecting two or more systems from said master file to receive backup data.

3. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the steps of:

compressing and encrypting said backup data; and

storing a second metadata and a key.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information: number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

5. The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

6. The method as recited in claim 4 further comprising the steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

7. The method as recited in claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;

uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

restoring said files to be restored.

8. A computer program product embodied in a machine readable medium for backing up and restoring files comprising the programming steps of:

installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;

receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and

receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.

9. The computer program product as recited in claim 8 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving a list of files to be backed up; and

selecting two or more systems from said master file to receive backup data.

10. The computer program product as recited in claim 9 further comprising the programming steps of:

compressing and encrypting said backup data; and

storing a second metadata and a key.

11. The computer program product as recited in claim 10, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information: number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

12. The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming step of:

transmitting said second metadata and said key to a central system.

13. The computer program product as recited in claim 11 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving a list of files to be restored;

determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

connecting to one or more daemon applications on one or more systems storing said files to be restored.

14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising the programming steps of:

receiving said files to be restored from said one or more daemon applications;

uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

restoring said files to be restored.

15. A system, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory unit coupled to said processor, wherein said memory unit is operable for storing a computer program for backing up and restoring files;

wherein said processor, responsive to said computer program, comprises:

circuitry operable for installing a daemon application on systems with available disk space to store backup files;

circuitry operable for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space;

circuitry operable for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system available to store backup files;

circuitry operable for installing a backup application on systems to perform a backup operation; and

circuitry operable for receiving a request from said backup applications to download said master file.

16. A system, comprising:

a first computer system comprising:

a first processor; and

a first memory unit coupled to said first processor, wherein said first memory unit is operable for storing a backup application operable for backing up and restoring files;

a second and a third computer system, wherein each of said second and said third computer system comprises:

a second processor;

a second memory unit coupled to said second processor, wherein said second memory unit is operable for storing a daemon application operable for communicating with a central system; and

a disk unit, wherein an available capacity of said disk unit is configured to store back-up files; and

said central system coupled to said first, said second and said third computer systems, wherein said central system comprises:

a third processor; and

a third memory unit coupled to said third processor, wherein said third memory unit is operable for storing a computer program for installing said daemon applications on said second and third computer systems and installing said backup application on said first computer system for backup and restoration of files;

wherein said third processor, responsive to said third computer program, comprises:

circuitry operable for installing said daemon application on said second and said third computer system;

circuitry operable for receiving a first metadata from said installed daemon applications, wherein said first metadata comprises information regarding available disk space on said second and said third computer systems;

circuitry operable for creating a master file, wherein said master file comprises information regarding a list of systems available to store backup files and

an amount of available disk space to store backup files for each system to store backup files;

circuitry operable for installing said backup application on said first computer system to perform a backup operation; and

circuitry operable for receiving a request from said backup application to download said master file.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said first processor, responsive to said first computer program, comprises:

circuitry operable for receiving a list of files to be backed up; and

circuitry operable for selecting at least one of said second and said third computer systems from said master file to receive backup data.

18. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said first processor further comprises:

circuitry operable for compressing and encrypting said backup data; and

circuitry operable for storing a second metadata and a key.

19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said second metadata comprises one or more of the following information: number of bytes of data backed up in a particular system, systems storing said backup data, type of files in said backup data, ownership of files in said backup data, and who has privileges to execute said backup data.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said first processor further comprises:

circuitry operable for transmitting said second metadata and said key to said central system.

21. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein said first processor further comprises:

circuitry operable for receiving a list of files to be restored;

circuitry operable for determining which systems store said files to be restored using said second metadata; and

circuitry operable for connecting to at least one of said daemon applications stored on said second and said third computer systems storing said files to be restored.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein said first processor further comprises:

circuitry operable for receiving said files to be restored from at least one of said daemon applications;

circuitry operable for uncompressing and decrypting said files to be restored using said key; and

circuitry operable for restoring said files to be restored.